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Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014

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Letter of transmittal

[15 July 2014]

Letter dated 15 July 2014 from the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/97 of 11 December 2013. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2014.

(*Signed*) Xavier **Lasso Mendoza**
Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard
to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Chapter I

Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The establishment and history of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is covered in detail in section II of the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2014/L.1).

2. At its sixty-eighth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee (A/68/23), the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/97, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2013, and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) and to carry out the actions approved by the Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories. The Assembly also called upon all of the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in the Committee's future sessions.

3. In addition to resolution 68/97, the General Assembly has adopted another 10 resolutions and a decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2013, which are listed below.

1. Resolutions and decision concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	58/316[a]	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	68/91	11 December 2013
New Caledonia	68/92	11 December 2013
Tokelau	68/94	11 December 2013
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands	68/95 A and B	11 December 2013

[a] In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution 58/316, the item should remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

Decision

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Gibraltar	68/523	11 December 2013

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	68/87	11 December 2013
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	68/88	11 December 2013
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	68/89	11 December 2013
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	68/90	11 December 2013
Dissemination of information on decolonization	68/96	11 December 2013

3. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

4. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session that were relevant to the work of the Committee and which it took into account were listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work (A/AC.109/2014/L.1).

4. Membership of the Special Committee

5. As at 1 January 2014, the Special Committee was composed of the following 29 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2014 and election of officers

6. The Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its 1st meeting on 20 February 2014.

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chair:
Xavier Lasso Mendoza (Ecuador)

Vice-Chairs:
Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez (Cuba)
Shekou M. Touray (Sierra Leone)

Rapporteur:
Bashar Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

8. At its 1st meeting, on 20 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair. It also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chair relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/2014/L.2). At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement relating to the organization of work (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.1).

9. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Montenegro, Panama, Peru, Solomon Islands, Spain, Surinam, Turkey, Uganda and Uruguay participated in the 2014 session of the Special Committee as observers.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

10. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its Bureau were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations among the officers of the Special Committee via electronic means.

1. Special Committee

11. The Special Committee held nine meetings at Headquarters during 2014, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 20 February; and 2nd meeting, 1 April;

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd meeting, 16 June; 4th and 5th meetings, 23 June; 6th meeting, 24 June; 7th and 8th meetings, 26 June; and 9th meeting, 27 June.

12. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meeting*	*Decision*
Dissemination of information on decolonization	3rd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	3rd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution I
Sending visiting and special missions to Territories	3rd	Chap. IV, para. 81
Gibraltar	3rd	Chap. VIII, para. 103
Special Committee decision of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico	4th and 5th	Chap. I, para. 25
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands	6th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VII
Tokelau	6th and 9th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VI
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	7th and 8th	Chap. XII, para. 143
New Caledonia	7th and 9th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IV
French Polynesia	9th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution V
Western Sahara	3rd	Chap. VIII, para. 108
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	6th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution III
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	6th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution II
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	6th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IX

2. Subsidiary bodies

13. At its 1st meeting, on 20 February, the Special Committee adopted the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2014/L.2) and decided to maintain its Bureau as its only subsidiary body. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held 17 meetings.

14. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June, following a statement by the Chair, the Special Committee adopted a report on decisions concerning organizational matters relating to its work (A/AC.109/2014/L.14), without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

15. At its 1st meeting, on 20 February, the Special Committee adopted the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2014/L.2) and decided to take up as appropriate the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

16. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-ninth session (A/AC.109/2014/L.14, para. 9).

Special Committee decision of 17 June 2013 concerning Puerto Rico

17. At its 1st meeting, on 20 February, the Special Committee, in adopting suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2014/L.2), decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 17 June 2013 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it in plenary meetings.

18. At the 3rd and 4th meetings, on 16 and 23 June, the Chair drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee.

19. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper on the item prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2014/L.13) and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2014/L.6).

20. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.6. The Special Committee heard from the following speakers:

> Ana Irma Rivera Lassén, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; Wilma E. Reverón-Collazo, Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano; Pedro R. Pierluisi, New Progressive Party; Sonia M. Santiago Hernandez, Madres contra la Guerra; Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, Comité de Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico; Evaristo Silva Cintrón, Hermandad Taína; María Villeneuve, Boricuas por un Nuevo País; Francisco R. Jordán García, Coordinadora Nacional de las Actividades del Cerro de los Mártires; Olga Sanabira Davila, Comité de Puerto Rico en Naciones Unidas; Juan Dalmau, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Osvaldo Toledo, American Association of Jurists; Lily

Castro, Alianza Comunitaria de Borikén; Francis A. Boyle, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities; Héctor Cintrón Príncipe, Consejo Nacional Para la Descolonización; Manuel Rivera, Puertorriqueños Unidos en Acción; Doris Pizarro Claudio, Colegio de Profesionales del Trabajo Social de Puerto Rico; Benjamin Ramos Rosado, ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; Evelyn M. Román Montalvo, Coalición Puertorriqueña contra la Pena de Muerte; Ana Cristina Cabán, Unión Nacional de Estudiantes; Marie Cruz Soto, New York Solidarity with Vieques; José Luiz Nieves, Oficina de Asuntos Comunitarios e Indígenas; Orlando J. Ortiz Avilés, Juventud Boricua; Jan Susler, National Lawyers Guild International Committee; and John Ross Serrano Sanabira, College Republican Federation of Puerto Rico.

21. At the 5th meeting, on 23 June, statements were made by José R. Ortiz Vélez, Frente Autonomista; Edwin Pagán, Generación 51; Annabel Guillén, Igualdad; Gabriel Román, Citizens Movement for Statehood; Martín Koppel, Socialist Workers Party; Ismael Muller Vázquez, Frente Socialista de Puerto Rico; María de Lourdes Guzmán, Movimiento Unión Soberanista de Puerto Rico; and José Enrique Melendez Ortiz, League of United Latin American Citizens.

22. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Nicaragua, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador and Costa Rica (on behalf of the States members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States).

23. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.6 without a vote. The representative of Cuba made a statement.

24. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee heard from the following speakers:

Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; José Eriel Muñiz Gómez, High School Republicans of Puerto Rico; Ana M. López, New York Coordinator to Free Oscar López Rivera; Julio J. Rolón, Puerto Rico No Se Vende; José M. Umpierre Mellado, Acción Soberanista; Miguel Reyes Walker, Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico-Movimiento Libertador-Junta Nacional; José Giovanni Ojeda Rodríguez, Renacer Ideológico Estadista; Ricardo Roselló Nevares, Boricua Ahora Es!; Cruz María Nazario, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Puerto Rico; Héctor Bermúdez Zenón, Grupo por la Igualdad y la Justicia de Puerto Rico; Richard López Rodríguez, Frente Patriótico Arecibeño; and Gerardo Lugo Segarra, Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico.

25. Draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.6 read as follows:

Special Committee decision of 17 June 2013 concerning Puerto Rico

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico, *Considering* that the midway point of the period 2011-2020, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, will soon be reached,

Bearing in mind the thirty-two resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, in particular those adopted without a vote in recent years,

Recalling that 25 July 2014 marks the one hundred and sixteenth anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Noting with concern that despite the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in recent years, the process of the decolonization of Puerto Rico, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee on Puerto Rico, has not yet been set in motion,

Bearing in mind that the people of Puerto Rico mostly rejected its current status of political subordination on 6 November 2012 and that that status prevents it from taking sovereign decisions to address the serious economic and social problems of Puerto Rico,

Stressing again the urgent need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Noting that the Inter-agency Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status designated by the President of the United States, which submitted its third report on 16 March 2011, reaffirmed that Puerto Rico is a territory subject to United States congressional authority,

Taking note of the Declaration adopted at the II Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States held in Havana, on 28 and 29 January 2014, in which the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico is reiterated, note is taken of the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee, reiterating that it is an issue of interest for the Community, a commitment is made to continue working, in the framework of international law, particularly in the framework of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), to make the region of Latin America and the Caribbean a territory free of colonialism and colonies, and in which the Quartet of the Community, with the participation of other member States that wish to associate themselves with the mandate, is entrusted to present proposals to move forward on the matter,

Taking note also of the Special Declaration on Puerto Rico adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our Americas in Caracas on 4 and 5 February 2012, in which they expressed their strong support for the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and full independence, recalled that Puerto Rico is a Latin American and Caribbean nation with its own unmistakable identity and history, whose rights to sovereignty have been violated by the imposed colonial rule for more than one century, stressed that the cause of the independence of Puerto Rico concerns the region of Latin America and the Caribbean and their forums for dialogue and political cooperation — particularly the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and in which they demanded the release of political prisoners convicted for fighting for the independence and self-determination of Puerto Rico, including Oscar López Rivera who has been imprisoned under inhumane conditions for thirty-three years,

Taking note further of the Panama Proclamation, adopted by the Latin American and Caribbean Congress in support of Puerto Rico's Independence, held in Panama on 18 and 19 November 2006 and attended by thirty-three political parties from twenty-two countries of the region, the conclusions of which were reaffirmed in the declaration adopted by the Council of the Socialist International in Cascais, Portugal, on 5 February 2013, in which support was expressed for the repeated and unanimous call of the Special Committee for the General Assembly to examine the colonial case of Puerto Rico and for the release of Oscar López Rivera and other Puerto Rican patriots who are serving sentences in jails in the United States, and in which satisfaction and solidarity with the overwhelming rejection of the people of Puerto Rico to the continuation of the current colonial status of Puerto Rico was likewise demonstrated,

Noting the debate in Puerto Rico on the search for a procedure that would enable the launch of the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico, and aware of the ineffectiveness of consultations originating in the United States, the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico, and the fact that, to date, several draft laws in favour of convening a constitutional assembly on status have been presented in Puerto Rico,

Noting also the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of the Puerto Rican political prisoners, some of whom have been serving sentences in prisons in the United States of America for more than thirty-three years for cases related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico,

Noting further the concern of the people of Puerto Rico regarding violent actions, including repression and intimidation, against Puerto Rican independence fighters, including those that have recently come to light through documents declassified by federal agencies of the United States,

Aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, was used for over sixty years by the United States Marine Corps to carry out military exercises, with negative consequences for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of that Puerto Rican municipality,

Noting the consensus existing among the people and the Government of Puerto Rico on the necessity of ensuring the clean-up, decontamination and return to the people of Puerto Rico of all the territory previously used for military exercises and installations, and of using them for the social and economic development of Puerto Rico, as well as on the slowness of the process thus far,

Noting also the complaints made constantly by the inhabitants of Vieques Island regarding the continued bombing and the use of open burning for clean-up, which exacerbate the existing health problems and pollution and endanger civilian lives,

Noting further that in the Final Document of the Sixteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries,[1] held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012, and other meetings of the Movement, the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence is reaffirmed under General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the Government of the United States is urged to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence and to return the territory and occupied installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation, and the General Assembly is urged to actively consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects,

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[1] A/67/506-S/2012/752, annex I.

Having heard statements and representative testimonies of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico:[2]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own unequivocal national identity;

3. *Calls again* upon the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico, and to take decisions, in a sovereign manner, to address their urgent economic and social needs;

4. *Notes* the broad support of eminent persons, Governments and political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean for the independence of Puerto Rico;

5. *Again notes* the debate in Puerto Rico on the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all viewpoints prevailing in Puerto Rico, including a constitutional assembly on status with a basis in the decolonization alternatives recognized in international law, and aware of the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico;

6. *Expresses serious concern* regarding the actions carried out against Puerto Rican independence fighters, and encourages the investigation of those actions with the necessary rigour and with the cooperation of the relevant authorities;

7. *Requests* the General Assembly to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous and comprehensive review in all its aspects;

8. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to complete the return of occupied land and installations on Vieques Island and in Ceiba to the people of Puerto Rico, respect

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[2] A/AC.109/2014/L.13.

fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, and expedite and cover the costs of the process of cleaning up and decontaminating the areas previously used in military exercises through means that do not continue to worsen the serious consequences of its military activity for the health of the inhabitants of Vieques Island and the environment;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the President of the United States of America to release the following Puerto Rican political prisoners serving sentences in United States prisons for cases relating to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico: Oscar López Rivera, who has been serving a sentence for over thirty-three years and whose case is of humanitarian character, and Norberto González Claudio, who was arrested more recently;

10. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, in compliance with its resolution of 17 June 2013;[2]

11. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report in 2014 on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

26. At its 1st meeting, on 20 February, the Special Committee adopted the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2014/L.2) and decided to consider in plenary meetings the questions of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization, the holding of a series of meetings away from Headquarters, the pattern of conferences, and other questions, as mentioned in paragraphs 27 to 40 below.

1. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

27. The Special Committee, in its consideration of specific items, took into account the decision mentioned in paragraph 26 above.

2. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

28. Having regard to its programme of work for 2014, the Special Committee, at its 9th meeting, on 27 June, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV), by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting invitations to such meetings as might be received in 2015 and that, when the details of such meetings become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision, in accordance with established procedures.

3. Pattern of conferences

29. In accordance with measures that it had taken previously, the Special Committee continued to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference servicing resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements, by circulating communications and information material by, as far as possible, electronic means and as informal notes and aides-memoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and realizing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents of the Special Committee in 2014 is contained in annex I to the present report.

30. In the conduct of all of its meetings during 2014, the Special Committee closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 67/237. By effectively organizing its programme of work and holding extensive consultations, the Committee was able to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum. Accordingly, it decided, taking into account its probable workload, to consider holding its meetings in 2015 in accordance with the following schedule: (a) plenary: February (one meeting); March (one meeting); June (up to 8 meetings, with 6 to 8 meetings per week); (b) Bureau (throughout the year, 10 meetings or more). It was understood that the programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, early in 2015, review the schedule of meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to maintain efforts to keep its meetings to a minimum.

4. Control and limitation of documentation

31. During the year, the Special Committee took further measures to control and limit its documentation, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50, 39/68, 51/211 B, 66/233 and 67/237.

5. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

32. In accordance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of France, New Zealand and the United States of America, three of the four administering Powers, participated in the work of the Special Committee in 2014, either during its plenary meetings at Headquarters or during the Pacific regional seminar held in Denarau, Fiji.

33. The delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland did not formally participate in the work of the Special Committee in 2014.[3]

34. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 3rd meeting, on 16 June, adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization (see chap. IV).

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[3] For the explanation of its non-participation, see A/41/23, chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

6. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

35. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work at Headquarters and decided that such participation should be facilitated in accordance with the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

7. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

36. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with the decision taken by the Special Committee at its 1st meeting, on 20 February (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.1), it would authorize its Chair to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in such meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chair would hold consultations with the Bureau members, who in turn would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Chair would also hold consultations with a member of the Committee whose regional group was not represented in the Bureau. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2015.

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

37. The question of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories was acknowledged by the Special Committee during the Pacific regional seminar and at its 9th meeting, on 27 June, in connection with its consideration of the report of the seminar (see chap. II and annex II).

9. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

38. At its 1st meeting, on 20 February, the Special Committee, in adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2014/L.2) and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly and based on the practice initiated by the Committee in 2005, decided to continue to formulate its decisions in General Assembly format and to submit them to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

39. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chair, authorized the Rapporteur to submit directly to the Assembly the report of the Committee, in accordance with established practice and procedure.

10. Other questions

40. At its 1st meeting, on 20 February, the Special Committee, adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see

A/AC.109/2014/L.2) and decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings, the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and a decision listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (see para. 3 above), all of which were taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

41. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 68/89 on the item, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Special Committee held consultations to consider appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (see E/2014/11). An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is contained in chapter VI of the present report.

42. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as reflected in the recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII). The Special Committee took into account relevant resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council in 2013 and continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

43. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact on a regular basis with the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum in order to assist it in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of those intergovernmental organizations.

44. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 68/96 and 68/97, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations with an interest in the field of decolonization (see A/AC.109/2014/18 and para. 18 above). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in chapter XIII of the present report.

45. The Special Committee also continued to monitor related developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, having regard to relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

H. Review of work

46. In ongoing efforts to find creative ways to enable better implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee, its Bureau took the unprecedented step of conducting, in January and February 2014, informal consultations with the representatives of many Non-Self-Governing Territories and a number of other stakeholders concerned with the status of those Territories. This proactive initiative

was preceded by a meeting, convened at the request of the Chair, between the Bureau and the Secretary-General on 12 November 2013. The meeting, the first of its kind held during the intersessional period, was aimed at enhancing the Secretary-General's good offices in promoting dialogue among all concerned parties in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. At its 6th meeting, on 24 June 2014, the Special Committee decided to hold such intersessional meetings with the Secretary-General on an annual basis in order to sustain efforts to determine innovative approaches to the expeditious implementation of its mandate. During the intersessional period, the Chair and Bureau also held informal consultations with each of the four administering Powers in order to reinvigorate cooperation and partnership with them in addressing the self-determination status of the Territories under their administration.

47. The reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991 were also actively pursued in 2014 and the Committee's recommendation on 12 Territories, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, continued to be consolidated into two resolutions (see chap. XIII, draft resolutions VI and VII).

48. The Special Committee also considered and submitted recommendations on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, the question of sending visiting and special missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

49. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, at which participants considered the goals and expected accomplishments of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

50. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization, which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its sixty-ninth session (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII). The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 17 June 2013 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard representatives of many concerned organizations and adopted a decision on the matter (see para. 25).

I. Future work

51. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961, and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 2015 to pursue its efforts to bring about a speedy end to colonialism, in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the revised plan of action to be developed within the context of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In order to discharge its mandated responsibilities in that regard, the Special Committee will keep the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under continuous review, examining the impact of developments on the political advancement of each Territory,

reviewing compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations, seeking the input of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, non-governmental organizations from those Territories and individual experts during its meetings and regional seminars, and visiting the Territories to gather first-hand information.

52. In 2015, the Special Committee intends to intensify dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers for the purpose of furthering the cause of decolonization through the development of programmes of work, on a case-by-case basis, for the decolonization of specific Territories, in consultation with the administering Powers and with the participation of representatives of the Territories at every stage of the discussion. The members of the Special Committee are particularly encouraged by the excellent cooperation between France and New Caledonia and between New Zealand and Tokelau at every stage of the negotiations.

53. The Special Committee will continue to conduct regional seminars for the purpose of assessing, receiving and disseminating information on the situation in the Territories in order to facilitate the implementation of its mandate. In this connection, the Special Committee will hold a seminar in the Caribbean region in 2015.

54. The Special Committee will continue to seek the cooperation of the administering Powers in facilitating United Nations visiting and special missions to the Territories under their administration. The Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information regarding conditions in the Territories and the wishes and aspirations of the peoples concerning their future status. Moreover, visiting missions are important in the context of action plans for decolonization and observing acts of self-determination. The Special Committee will explore the possibility of combining visiting missions to certain Territories with regional seminars in order to optimize its available resources. The Special Committee will continue to use such opportunities as the regional seminars and visiting and special missions to disseminate information on its activities and on the Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in bringing about a speedy end to colonialism, and to develop, together with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, programmes aimed at Territories that have requested information about self-determination options.

55. The Special Committee will continue to pay attention to the specific problems of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee is aware that, in addition to the general problems facing developing countries, those Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, and vulnerability to drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal activities. The Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate the sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies.

56. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international and regional institutions associated with the United Nations. The Special Committee will continue the practice of holding consultations between its Chair and the

President of the Economic and Social Council with the objectives of facilitating the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and fostering cooperation between specialized agencies and regional organizations in providing assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

57. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. The Special Committee intends to take into account economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue its cooperation with interested States in order to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected.

58. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 2015, the Special Committee approved a tentative programme of meetings for 2015, which it recommends to the Assembly for approval.

59. The Special Committee suggests that when the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 2015. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all steps necessary for the implementation of the Declaration and relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly request those administering Powers that have not yet done so to become involved with the work of the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Furthermore, the Assembly might wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly in the relevant resolutions.

J. Activities envisaged for 2015 and the need for adequate funding

60. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 2015, including the Caribbean regional seminar and a visiting mission to one of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region. In that regard, the Special Committee notes that the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 includes resources for the programme

of work of the Special Committee for 2015, based on the level of activities approved for 2014, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. The Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all of the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly, as well as those arising from decisions taken by the Committee itself during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 2014 session

61. At the 9th meeting, on 27 June, the Chair made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2014 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.9).

Chapter II

Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

62. At its 1st meeting, on 20 February 2014, the Special Committee, in approving the recommendations of its Chair on its organization of work for the year (see A/AC.109/2014/L.2), decided to allocate to its plenary meetings, as appropriate, the question of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

63. At its 2nd, 6th and 9th meetings, on 1 April and 24 and 27 June, the Special Committee considered the questions of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Pacific regional seminar, held in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014 to assess the goals and expected accomplishments of the Third Decade.

64. The Special Committee had before it the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific regional seminar (A/AC.109/2014/17).

65. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 April, following a statement by the Chair, the Special Committee approved the composition of its official delegation to the Pacific regional seminar (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.2).

66. At its 6th meeting, on 24 June, the Special Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.9, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", as submitted by the Chair.

67. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IX).

68. At the 9th meeting, on 27 June, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Pacific regional seminar, which had been circulated to members of the Special Committee as an informal document.

69. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report of the Pacific regional seminar and decided to annex it to its report to the General Assembly (see annex II).

Chapter III

Dissemination of information on decolonization

70. The Special Committee considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 3rd meeting, on 16 June 2014.

71. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 68/96 on the dissemination of information on decolonization and resolution 68/97 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

72. At the 3rd meeting, the Special Committee heard statements from the representatives of the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.3).

73. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2014/18) and a draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair (A/AC.109/2014/L.4).

74. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.4 without a vote.

75. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII).

Chapter IV

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

76. The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories at its 3rd meeting, on 16 June 2014.

77. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular the pertinent provisions of resolution 68/97 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolutions 68/94 and 68/95 relating to specific Territories.

78. In addition, the Special Committee considered the situation in the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 68/96 and 68/97, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

79. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2014/L.5).

80. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.5, as orally revised, without a vote (see A/AC/109/L.5/Rev.1).

81. The text of the draft resolution read as follows:

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and in the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[4]

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Special Committee visiting mission to New Caledonia, which took place from 10 to 15 March 2014, and looking forward to the report of the mission,

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[4] See resolution 65/119.

Recalling with satisfaction the dispatch of two United Nations missions to observe the referendums in Tokelau, in February 2006 and October 2007, at the invitation of New Zealand as the administering Power,[5]

Recalling with satisfaction also the cooperation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, in facilitating the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006[6] at the request of the territorial Government,

Recalling the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Governments of American Samoa and of Anguilla for a visiting mission by the Special Committee,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization and the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;[4]

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers that have not yet done so to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee in exploring the possibility of undertaking visiting or special missions in furtherance of the decolonization mandate of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* its Chair to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report thereon to the Special Committee on the results of those consultations.

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[5] See A/AC.109/2006/20 and A/AC.109/2007/19.

[6] See A/AC.109/2007/5.

Chapter V

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

82. The Special Committee considered the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 6th meeting, on 24 June 2014.

83. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including in particular resolution 68/88 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and resolution 68/97 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In addition, the Special Committee took into consideration relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.11.

84. At the 6th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2014/L.11).

85. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.11 without a vote.

86. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution II).

Chapter VI

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

87. The Special Committee considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations at its 6th meeting, on 24 June 2014.

88. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/89 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 24 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, including resolution 65/119, by which the Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

89. The Special Committee also took into account relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.10.

90. At the 6th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/69/66) and to the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (see E/2014/11), as well as to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2014/L.10).

91. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.10, without a vote.

92. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution III).

Chapter VII

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

93. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations at its 3rd meeting, on 16 June 2014.

94. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII), by which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer aspects of its functions to the Special Committee, and resolution 68/87, in paragraph 4 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 68/97 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution 65/119 on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

95. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/69/69), which reflected the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations by the administering Powers in regard to Territories under their respective administration, as well as to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2014/L.3).

96. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.3, without a vote.

97. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution I).

Chapter VIII

Gibraltar and Western Sahara

98. In its consideration of the questions of Gibraltar and Western Sahara, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 68/91 and decision 68/523, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. Gibraltar

99. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 3rd meeting, on 16 June 2014.

100. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2014/12).

101. At the 3rd meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, statements were made by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, and the representative of the Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group, Denis Mathews (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.3).

102. At the same meeting, the representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.3).

103. Also at the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its sixty-ninth session, and to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

B. Western Sahara

104. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 3rd meeting, on 16 June 2014.

105. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2014/1).

106. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and Ecuador.

107. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to the representative of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), Ahmed Boukhari, who made a statement (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.3).

108. Also at the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-ninth session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

Chapter IX

New Caledonia and French Polynesia

109. In its consideration of the questions of New Caledonia and French Polynesia, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 68/92 and 68/93, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. New Caledonia

110. On 20 February 2014, the Special Committee decided to send a visiting mission to New Caledonia to gather first-hand information on the ongoing self-determination process there, within the framework of the Nouméa Accord (A/AC.109/2114, annex). The mission took place from 10 to 16 March 2014 and involved a visit to Paris on 17 and 18 March for the purpose of holding related discussions with the administering Power.

111. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 9th meeting, on 27 June. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 68/92, and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2014/16 and Add.1) and the report of the visiting mission (A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1), which was presented by the Vice Chair of the Committee, Amadu Koroma (Sierra Leone), who led the mission.

112. At the same meeting, the representatives of Papua New Guinea and Nicaragua made statements (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.9).

113. Also at the same meeting, the Chair drew attention to requests for hearing by the President of the Congress of New Caledonia, Gaël Yanno, the Leader of the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) in the Congress of New Caledonia, Roch Wamytan, and the Secretary of the International Unit of FLNKS, Mikaël Forrest, all of whom made statements (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.9).

114. Statements were also made by the representative of France and by the Deputy Secretary-General, Office of the French High Commission in New Caledonia, Marie-Paule Tourte-Trolue.

115. Also at the 9th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2014/L.12).

116. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.12, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

117. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IV).

B. French Polynesia

118. The Special Committee considered the question of French Polynesia at its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2014. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 68/93, and had before it a working

paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2014/19).

119. At the same meeting, the Chair drew attention to requests for hearing by representatives of the Union pour la démocratie (UPLD), Richard Ariihau Tuheiava and Oscar Temaru, who made statements (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.9).

120. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Saint Lucia and Sierra Leone made statements.

121. Also at the 9th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2014/L.16), which the Committee adopted without a vote.

122. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution V).

Chapter X

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

123. The Special Committee considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands at its 6th meeting, on 24 June 2014.

124. In considering the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/97 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

125. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.

126. For its consideration of the items, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2014/3-11, 13 and 14).

127. At the 6th meeting, the Chair made a statement introducing a consolidated draft resolution (A/AC.109/2014/L.8) on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.6).

128. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.8 without a vote.

129. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VII).

Chapter XI
Tokelau

130. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 6th and 9th meetings, on 24 and 27 June 2014. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 68/94, and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2014/2).

131. At the 6th meeting, on 24 June, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2014/L.15) and, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to defer action on the draft to a subsequent date.

132. At the same meeting and with the consent of the Special Committee, the Ulu-o-Tokelau and the Administrator of Tokelau made statements (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.6). Statements were also made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Fiji and New Zealand (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.6).

133. At the 9th meeting, on 27 June, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced the draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.15, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

134. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VI).

Chapter XII

Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

135. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 7th and 8th meetings, on 26 June 2014. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

136. For its consideration of the item, the Chair drew the attention of the Special Committee to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2014/15) and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2014/L.7).

137. At the 7th meeting, the Chair informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Montenegro, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Turkey, Uganda and Uruguay had requested to participate in the Committee's work at its present session. The Committee acceded to those requests.

138. At the same meeting, in accordance with the decision taken at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by Roger Edwards and Michael Summers of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands, and by Alejandro Betts and Marcelo Luis Vernet (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.7).

139. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Chile, also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.7. The Foreign Minister of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.7).

140. Also at the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (also on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (also on behalf of the States members of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)), Cuba, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic and Indonesia.

141. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.7 without a vote. The representatives of China, the Russian Federation and Brazil made statements (see A/AC.109/2014/SR.7).

142. At the 8th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone and Ecuador, as well as by the observers for Costa Rica (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Guatemala, Uruguay, Peru, Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador, Paraguay, Honduras and Costa Rica, following which the Foreign Minister of Argentina made a further statement.

143. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2014/L.7 read as follows:

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995, A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996, A/AC.109/2096 of 16 June 1997, A/AC.109/2122 of 6 July 1998, A/AC.109/1999/23 of 1 July 1999, A/AC.109/2000/23 of 11 July 2000, A/AC.109/2001/25 of 29 June 2001, A/AC.109/2002/25 of 19 June 2002, A/AC.109/2003/24 of 16 June 2003, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2004, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2005, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2006, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2007, the resolution adopted on 12 June 2008, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2009, the resolution adopted on 24 June 2010, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2011, the resolution adopted on 14 June 2012 and the resolution adopted on 20 June 2013, and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), *Reaffirming* the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the President of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly and the Special Committee meeting of 14 June 2012;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. *Reiterates* its firm support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Chapter XIII
Recommendations

144. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 68/87 of 11 December 2013, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[7]

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

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[7] A/69/69.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

Draft resolution II

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to the item,[8]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991, 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and 65/119 of 10 December 2010,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

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[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/69/23), chap. V.

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected

and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Draft resolution III

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations", *Having also considered* the report of the Secretary-General[9] and the report of the Economic and Social Council[10] on the item,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to the item,[11]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolutions 2012/22 of 26 July 2012 and 2013/43 of 25 July 2013,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming also the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social spheres, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

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[9] A/69/66.

[10] E/2014/11.

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/69/23), chap. VI.

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance that they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/89 of 11 December 2013 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the

United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as an important element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), including possible participation at the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,[12] calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

14. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the President of the Economic and Social Council;

15. *Recalls* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination;

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

18. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

19. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of

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[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), sect. III.G.

the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

21. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the measures necessary to implement it, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Draft resolution IV
Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to New Caledonia,[13]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote equitable political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Recalling the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, submitted to the Human

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[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/69/23), chap. IX, sect. A.

Rights Council at its eighteenth session, held from 12 to 30 September and on 21 October 2011,[14] following his visit to the Territory in February 2011,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region, including through the hosting of New Caledonian delegates in the French diplomatic and consular missions in the region,

Recalling the conclusions of the eighteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit held in Suva on 31 March 2011 and the recommendations for the annual monitoring and assessment of the Nouméa Accord,[15]

Welcoming the exchange of letters between the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group secretariat on the sharing of information on New Caledonia,

Mindful that New Caledonia has entered the most seminal phase of the Nouméa Accord process, a period that requires continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory in order to help the people of New Caledonia to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the objectives set out in the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Welcoming the Charter of the Kanak people, common base of the fundamental values and principles of the Kanak civilization, which was proclaimed in April 2014 by the customary authorities, Great Chiefs, Chiefs, Presidents of District Councils and Presidents of the Clan Chief Council, as the sole traditional custodians of the Kanak people of New Caledonia,

Welcoming the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia in March 2014,

Having heard the statement of the Chair of the visiting mission,

Having examined the report of the United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia,[16]

Welcoming the cooperation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to New Caledonia and its readiness for and concurrence with the dispatching of the 2014 visiting mission,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the administering Power,

Acknowledging the successful conduct by New Caledonia of municipal and provincial elections in May 2014,

Taking note of the information presented to the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action held in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, on the situation in the Territory, including on the issues related to the 2014 election,

Aware of the challenges encountered in the 2014 provincial electoral process, particularly with regard to the work of the special administrative committees in updating the special electoral roll, the non-existence of the supplementary electoral roll from 1998 and the unavailability of the 1998 general electoral roll prior to 2014, and their potential impact on the referendum on self-determination,

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[14] A/HRC/18/35/Add.6, annex.

[15] A/AC.109/2114, annex.

[16] A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1.

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to New Caledonia;[13]

2. *Also approves* the report, observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia conducted in 2014;[16]

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia for the close cooperation and assistance extended to the visiting mission;

4. *Notes* the concerns expressed regarding the challenges encountered in the provincial elections process with respect to the persistent varying interpretations of the restricted electorate provisions and the voter registration appeal process, and encourages the administering Power and the people of New Caledonia to address in an amicable manner the concerns of all stakeholders under the existing relevant laws in the Territory and in France, while also respecting and upholding the spirit and letter of the Nouméa Accord;[15]

5. *Expresses the view* that adequate measures for conducting the upcoming consultations on access to full sovereignty, including a just, fair and transparent electoral roll, as provided in the Nouméa Accord, are essential for the conduct of a free and genuine act of self-determination consistent with United Nations principles and practices;

6. *Calls upon* France, the administering Power, in the light of the observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the visiting mission, to consider developing an education programme to inform the people of New Caledonia about the nature of self-determination so that they may be better prepared to face a future decision on the matter, and requests the Special Committee to provide all available assistance in that regard;

7. *Commends* the observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the visiting mission to the Government of France, as the administering Power, and the Government of New Caledonia for appropriate action;

8. *Urges* all of the parties involved, in the interest of the people of New Caledonia and within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony in order to continue to promote a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to determine their destiny;

9. *Notes* that, at its eleventh meeting, held on 11 October 2013, the Committee of Signatories of the Nouméa Accord, inter alia:

(a) Examined the transfer of powers undertaken in 2013 and conducted an initial review of the work of the interministerial standing committee responsible for supporting the transfer of powers under way or completed;

(b) Considered proposed amendments to the Organic Law of 19 March 1999 relating to New Caledonia and a draft law containing various provisions related to overseas territories, including several measures concerning New Caledonia;

(c) Considered the work of the Steering Committee to assess progress under the Nouméa Accord, welcomed the outcome of the working group established in 2013 and called for its continuation;

(d) Took note of the discussion paper presented by the mission responsible for considering the institutional future of New Caledonia and agreed that it could be used as a basis for work and debate with a view to preparing for the referendum prescribed by the Nouméa Accord and that it should be widely disseminated;

(e) Discussed the conditions under which preparations would be made for the referendum after the provincial elections in 2014 with the assistance of France, if requested;

(f) Noted the status of the discussions on nickel markets and activities undertaken within the framework of the Conference of Presidents, and reiterated the need to build a coherent, long-term industrial strategic framework, implemented by all stakeholders, in order to ensure the sustainable future development of mining and metallurgical activities and to maximize their socioeconomic benefits;

(g) Noted with satisfaction the work accomplished by the special congressional commission responsible for adopting a flag that expresses both the Kanak identity and the future to be shared by all;

(h) Examined the work carried out for the establishment of structured mechanisms for the advancement of New Caledonians in the civil service, particularly the sovereign civil service;

10. *Reaffirms* its resolution 68/87 of 11 December 2013, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed that, in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

11. *Notes* the continuing concerns expressed by the Kanak people regarding their underrepresentation in governmental and social structures, incessant migratory flows and the impact of mining on the environment;

12. *Commends* the "Cadres for the future" programme, and encourages further enhancement of the training and capacity-building of high-level executives for the public and private sectors in the Territory, particularly in view of the ongoing transfer of powers from the Government of France to New Caledonia, while ensuring that the transfer of powers is undertaken in a manner consistent with the Nouméa Accord;

13. *Recalls* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia,[14] made in the light of relevant international standards, to

assist with ongoing efforts to advance the rights of the Kanak people in the context of the implementation of the Nouméa Accord and the United Nations-supported decolonization process;

14. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the economic and social rebalancing initiatives undertaken by the administering Power, and urges its continuation in all areas and communities of the Territory, especially for the well-being of the Kanak indigenous people;

15. *Encourages* the administering Power, with the cooperation of the Government of New Caledonia, to ensure and enhance safeguards and guarantees of the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to own, access, use and manage their natural resources, including proprietary rights for their future development;

16. *Recalls* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, and notes the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund;

17. *Welcomes* the accession of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste to the Chair of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the hosting, for the first time in New Caledonia, in June 2013, of the meetings of officials and leaders of the Group and the opening, in February 2013, of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste unit at the headquarters of the Group secretariat in Port Vila;

18. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

19. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

20. *Takes note* of the information shared by participants from New Caledonia at the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action held in Denarau, Fiji, in May 2014, including measured progress made in the social, economic, political and environmental spheres and more focused efforts, particularly on the rebalancing initiatives and electoral roll concerns, necessary for the long-term shared mutual benefit of all New Caledonians, and urges the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia to devote appropriate attention to addressing these issues;

21. *Welcomes* the peaceful conduct of provincial elections in New Caledonia on 11 May 2014, the preceding municipal elections and the subsequent ongoing efforts to form a new Government of New Caledonia, and encourages constructive engagement by all stakeholders in further developing New Caledonia for all, including by respecting and upholding the Nouméa Accord;

22. *Also welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, particularly the submissions on 14 February and 15 May 2014 on the most recent developments in New Caledonia;

23. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

24. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

25. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Draft resolution V
Question of French Polynesia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of French Polynesia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to French Polynesia,[17]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with all relevant resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Recalling its resolution 67/265 of 17 May 2013, entitled "Self-determination of French Polynesia", in which it affirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter and its resolution 1514 (XV), recognized that French Polynesia remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter and declared that an obligation exists under Article 73 *e* of the Charter on the part of the Government of France, as the administering Power of the Territory, to transmit information on French Polynesia,

Taking note of the section related to French Polynesia in the Final Document of the Seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Algiers on 26 and 27 May 2014,

Expressing concern that 54 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[18] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, on a case-by-case basis and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

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[17] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/69/23), chap. IX, sect. B.

[18] Resolution 1514 (XV).

Recognizing also that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Conscious of the responsibility of the administering Power to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of French Polynesia,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, on a case-by-case basis, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories,

Recognizing the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a 30-year period, and recognizing also the concerns in the Territory related to the consequences of those activities for the lives and health of the people, especially children and vulnerable groups, as well as the environment of the region, and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 68/73 of 11 December 2013, entitled "Effects of atomic radiation",

Recognizing also the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of French Polynesia to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of French Polynesia of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in French Polynesia, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

4. *Regrets* that the administering Power has not responded to the request to submit information on French Polynesia under article 73 *e* of the Charter;

5. *Reaffirms* that an obligation exists on the part of the administering Power to transmit information under Chapter XI of the Charter and requests the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General such information on French Polynesia as called for under the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to intensify its dialogue with French Polynesia in order to facilitate rapid progress towards a fair and effective self-determination process, under which the terms and timelines for an act of self-determination would be agreed;

7. *Recalls its request* to the Secretary-General to compile a report, in cooperation with the relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations, on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts as a consequence of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in the Territory;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of French Polynesia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Draft resolution VI
Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to Tokelau,[19]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 68/94 of 11 December 2013,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting with appreciation also the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Noting also the status of Tokelau as an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

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[19] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/69/23), chap. XI.

Recalling that New Zealand and Tokelau signed on 21 November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two partners,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold in February 2006 a referendum on self-determination on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007, and that the two referendums did not produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change the status of Tokelau from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand,

Noting the holding of free and fair elections in the Territory in January 2014,

Noting also the 2013 constitutional consultations driven by the people of Tokelau aimed at developing a model of government structure that is culturally appropriate and sensitive to their current situation, culminating in the approval and ratification of the national symbol of the Territory, including the constitution, national anthem and national flag, which is to be further considered by the Constitution Committee,

Bearing in mind the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau at the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action held in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014 that the self-determination process of the Territory could not be addressed in isolation from the threat of climate change and the rise in sea level, and also bearing in mind the intention of Tokelau to further review the National Strategic Plan in order to determine development and other priorities beyond 2015, including consideration of the issue of self-determination and how it would address a possible referendum on self-determination in cooperation with the administering Power,

Cognizant of the statement made at the seminar by the representative of the Government of New Zealand, as the administering Power, citing the close and cordial cooperation that has existed for nearly 90 years between the Territory and the administering Power, with an emphasis on quality health care and education, telecommunications, renewable energy, support for the fisheries sector and the establishment of transport infrastructure and services, including the ongoing construction of a new purpose-built ferry vessel for the people of Tokelau, to be delivered in 2015,

1. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono in 2008 that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New Zealand and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life and opportunities for the people of Tokelau;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils) since 2004, and notes that further discussion is planned on the recommendations of the report on the devolution review, compiled in 2012;

3. *Notes* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

4. *Recalls* the adoption by Tokelau of its National Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 and that the Joint Commitment for Development between Tokelau and New Zealand 2011-2015 prioritizes four main development pillars, including good governance, infrastructure development, human resources capacity development and sustainable development;

5. *Acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, including the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project and a new shipping charter service, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization;

6. *Commends* the achievement by Tokelau in 2013 of 60 per cent of the objectives of its National Strategic Plan, including the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project with the support of the administering Power and the granting of the Renewable Energy Award to the Government of Tokelau by the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority;

7. *Acknowledges* the need of Tokelau for continued support from the international community and its desire to become part of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the impacts of climate change and the protection of the environment and oceans;

8. *Notes* the intention of Tokelau to further review its National Strategic Plan in order to determine development and other priorities beyond 2015 and include consideration of the issue of self-determination and how the Territory would address a possible referendum on self-determination in cooperation with the administering Power;

9. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

10. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

11. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

12. *Welcomes* the positive actions taken by the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau;

13. *Also welcomes* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continue to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Draft resolution VII
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A
General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014,[20]

Recalling all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolutions,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that 54 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[21] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2020 and the plans of action for the Second[22] and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,

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[20] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/69/23), chap. X.

[21] Resolution 1514 (XV).

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the stated position of the Government of the United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

Noting also the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through orders in council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

Aware of the importance of the international financial services and tourism sectors for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time, in consultation with the relevant administering Powers and in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the relevant administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

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[22] A/56/61, annex.

Acknowledging the regular transmission by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General of information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

Aware of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate, and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Noting the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and at its regional seminars,

Welcoming the 2014 Pacific regional seminar held by the Special Committee in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014 as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess the progress made in the decolonization process and to review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its momentum in implementing its historic task,

Recognizing the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee[23] and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011-2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and in that connection bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action or outcome documents of all United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social spheres,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of

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[23] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/69/23).

Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Kingstown from 31 May to 2 June 2011 that all six Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories are active associate members of the Commission,

Aware that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[24] reviews the status of the self-determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

Recognizing that the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories,[25] as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs to update the present resolutions,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[26]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its understanding of their conditions,

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[24] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[25] A/AC.109/2014/1-15, 16 and Add.1 and 19.

[26] A/65/330 and Add.1.

including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

5. *Requests* the administering Powers to continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and, as a priority, to mitigate the effects of the current global financial crisis where possible, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, towards the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories and to provide assistance to those Territories, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

9. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

10. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plans of action for the Second[22] and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the context of the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the various constitutional exercises in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements, and decides to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[24] with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Special Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to collaborate with the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and on the implementation of the present resolution;

B
Individual Territories

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I
American Samoa

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa[27] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the Pacific regional seminar held in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014 that, while the Territory enjoyed a great deal of self-government, its current legal status was seen as an anachronism that exposed the Territory to situations beyond its control and needed to be remedied,

Noting the constitutional amendment, approved in 2014 and to be put to the vote at the end of the year, that would give the Fono, the Territory's legislature, the authority to override the Governor's veto,

Noting also, in that regard, the announcement of a voter education process ahead of the constitutional amendment poll,

Aware that, under United States law, the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,[28]

Recalling the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa at regional seminars inviting the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

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[27] A/AC.109/2014/13.

[28] United States Congress, 1929 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1661, 45 Stat. 1253), and Secretary's Order 2657, Department of the Interior, United States of America, 1951, as amended.

Aware of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007 and the creation of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee, as well as the holding in June 2010 of the Territory's fourth Constitutional Convention,

Noting, in that regard, that, in 2013, the Governor recalled the recommendation of the Political Status Study Commission that American Samoa continue as an unorganized and unincorporated territory, and that a process of negotiation with the United States Congress for a permanent political status be initiated,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government, including at the 2014 Pacific regional seminar, that the effects of certain federal laws on the economy of the Territory give serious cause for concern,

Aware that, in July 2012, the United States passed Public Law 112-149, which includes a provision to delay the minimum wage increases in American Samoa, as provided by United States Public Law 110-28, until September 2015,

Aware also that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress and in particular the announcement of dialogue among the people of American Samoa on the Territory's future political status, to commence in 2015;

2. *Expresses once again its appreciation* for the invitation extended in 2011 by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the diversification and sustainability of the economy of the Territory and to address employment and cost-of-living issues;

II
Anguilla

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla[29] and other relevant information,

Recalling the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government and made possible by the administering Power, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

Recalling also the statement made by the representative of Anguilla at the Pacific regional seminar held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012 that the people of the Territory are concerned that they are being denied the full range of decolonization options under a drafting exercise that began in 2011,

Aware of the follow-up meeting, held after the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, between the Chair of the Special Committee and the Chief Minister of Anguilla, who reiterated the urgent need for a visiting mission,

Noting the internal constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power, the decisions taken in 2008 and 2011 to set up a drafting team to prepare a new constitution and present it for public consultation in the Territory and the efforts undertaken in that regard during 2013/2014,

Noting also the participation of the Territory as a member in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council and an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Welcomes* the preparations made for a new constitution, and urges that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

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[29] A/AC.109/2014/3.

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

III
Bermuda

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda[30] and other relevant information,

Aware of the statement made by the representative of Bermuda at the Pacific regional seminar held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory, and noting the results of successive surveys by local media, according to which a majority of respondents did not wish to sever ties with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power, and a minority was in favour of independence,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

Aware of serious concerns regarding good governance, transparency and accountability in the Territory, including with respect to external election campaign financing originating in a neighbouring country, which led the Premier to resign in May 2014 with a view to maintaining integrity and confidence in the political landscape,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the associate membership of Bermuda in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and continues to regret that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Underlines* the need further to strengthen good governance, transparency and accountability in government for the benefit of the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Welcomes* the active participation of Bermuda in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

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[30] A/AC.109/2014/5.

IV
British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands[31] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013 that while the Territory's relationship with the administering Power was stable and not problematic, it could be enhanced,

Aware of the negative impact of the global economic slowdown on the growth of the financial and tourism services sectors of the Territory,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, and stresses the importance of continued discussions on constitutional matters, to accord greater responsibility to the territorial Government for the effective implementation of the Constitution and increased levels of education relating to constitutional matters;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Recalls* the holding, in March 2014, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the United States Virgin Islands;

V
Cayman Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands[32] and other relevant information,

Conscious of the statement made by the representative of the territorial Government at the 2010 Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa,

Aware of the work, in accordance with the 2009 Constitution, of the Constitutional Commission, which serves as an advisory body on constitutional matters,

Acknowledging that, in spite of the global economic downturn and unemployment issues, the financial services, tourism and construction sectors of the Territory reportedly grew in 2013,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

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[31] A/AC.109/2014/6.

[32] A/AC.109/2014/8.

1. *Recalls* the 2009 Constitution of the Cayman Islands, and stresses the importance of the work of the Constitutional Commission, including its work on human rights education;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to continue to implement financial sector management policies, medical and sports tourism initiatives and unemployment alleviation programmes in various economic sectors;

VI
Guam

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam[33] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Governor of Guam at the Pacific regional seminar held in Fiji from 21 to 23 May 2014, presenting an update on the efforts of Guam towards decolonization and on the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in reinforcing public awareness in order to address the limited and distorted understanding of decolonization,

Cognizant of the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization to promote in the Territory the holding of a plebiscite on self-determination, to populate the decolonization registry, as required by public law, to enhance the ability to expediently register those who have not yet been registered and to identify and secure territorial and federal resources for a self-determination education programme,

Aware that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[34]

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

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[33] A/AC.109/2014/14.

[34] United States Congress, Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended.

Cognizant of the importance of the administering Power continuing to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware of the deep concern expressed by civil society and other parties regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination and its ongoing work on a self-determination vote, as well as its public education efforts;

2. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, including through the funding of the public education campaign, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

VII
Montserrat

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat[35] and other relevant information,

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[35] A/AC.109/2014/10.

Noting with concern the continuing consequences of the 1995 volcanic eruption which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the population of the Territory to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory and which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continuing assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

Aware that Montserrat continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2011 Constitution of Montserrat and the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward to consolidate the gains provided for in the Constitution;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the Territory's participation in the 2012 inauguration of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Assembly and in the work of that Organization and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII
Pitcairn

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn[36] and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population, area and access,

Aware that the administering Power and the territorial Government have implemented a governance structure to strengthen administrative capacity in the Territory, based on consultations with the people of the Territory, and that Pitcairn continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

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[36] A/AC.109/2014/4.

Cognizant that the administering Power and the territorial Government have developed a five-year strategic development plan that sets out the views and aspirations of the people of the Territory for the socioeconomic development of the Territory,

Aware of the assessment made in 2013 that the population of the Territory needs to be boosted if the Territory is to have a sustainable future and the approval by the Pitcairn Island Council of an immigration policy designed to promote immigration and repopulation and bring people with the necessary skills and commitment to Pitcairn,

1. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through training of local personnel;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic and environmental security in Pitcairn, including concerning demographic matters;

4. *Welcomes* the work carried out on the preparation of the five-year strategic development plan for the island;

IX
Saint Helena

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena[37] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of Saint Helena at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

Noting the fact that, in January 2013, following a resolution passed in September 2012 by the Legislative Council to undertake minor adjustments to the 2009 Constitution of Saint Helena, a public consultation process was launched,

Aware that a consultative poll was held in March 2013, with the majority opting for no change to the Constitution, and that, for the first time, a general election based on one constituency was held in July 2013,

Cognizant that Saint Helena continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

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[37] A/AC.109/2014/7.

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment and transport and communications infrastructure,

Noting the efforts of the Territory to address the demands on the labour market of Saint Helena, including through the Labour Market Strategy for the period 2012-2014, the Sustainable Economic Development Plan 2012/13-2021/22 and the new National Strategy for the Development of Statistics,

Noting also the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Saint Helena and, in that regard, the approval of the administering Power of the building of an airport on the island of Saint Helena,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2009 Constitution of the Territory and the further development of democratic and good governance;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socioeconomic development challenges of the Territory;

X
Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands[38] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 2009 Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis,

Recalling also the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

Aware of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Body, and acknowledging the 2006 Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands agreed upon between the administering Power and the elected territorial Government,

Noting the decision of the administering Power to suspend parts of the 2006 Constitution, the subsequent presentation of a draft constitution for public consultation in 2011 and the introduction of a new constitution for the Territory, as well as the election of a new territorial Government in 2012,

Aware that, in 2013, the Territory established the Constitutional Review Committee, which, following public consultations, is expected to formulate a document on constitutional matters for presentation to the administering Power,

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[38] A/AC.109/2014/9.

Aware also that, in March 2014, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community received an update on the situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which they will continue to monitor, and that they expressed their support for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory on terms driven by its people,

Acknowledging the impact that the global economic slowdown and other relevant developments have had on tourism and related real estate development, the mainstays of the economy of the Territory, including on construction output during 2012 and 2013, and noting that the Territory has begun a number of fresh economic development programmes,

1. *Expresses its support* for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory and the work of the Constitutional Review Committee in that regard, and notes the efforts of the administering Power to restore good governance, including through the introduction in 2011 of a new constitution and the holding of elections in November 2012, and sound financial management in the Territory;

2. *Notes* the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in support of a democratically elected territorial Government and of the full restoration of democracy in the Territory as decided by its people;

3. *Also notes* the continuing debate on constitutional reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

4. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of its people, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory, including through public-private consultative partnerships and small business development programmes;

XI
United States Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands[39] and other relevant information,

Aware that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[40]

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[39] A/AC.109/2014/11.

Aware also of the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as its requests to the administering Power and the United Nations system for assistance to its public education programme,

Cognizant that a draft constitution was proposed in 2009 and subsequently forwarded to the administering Power, which in 2010 requested the Territory to consider its objections to the draft constitution,

Cognizant also that the Fifth Revision Convention, established and convened in 2012, was mandated to ratify and approve the final revised draft constitution,

Noting the holding of elections in the Territory in November 2012,

Aware of the closing of the Hovensa plant, and noting the continuing negative impact on manufacturing and on the employment situation in the Territory,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of a draft constitution emanating from the Territory in 2009, as a result of the work of the United States Virgin Islands Fifth Constitutional Convention, for review by the administering Power, and requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the ongoing internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the proposed territorial constitution in the United States Congress and its implementation, once agreed upon in the Territory;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Expresses its concern* regarding the continuing negative impact of the Hovensa plant closure;

5. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Recalls* the holding, in March 2014, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the British Virgin Islands.

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[40] United States Congress, Revised Organic Act, 1954.

Draft resolution VIII
Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[41]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 68/96 of 11 December 2013,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[42]

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Recalling the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and recalls with satisfaction the publication, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, of the information leaflet on what the United Nations can do to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on

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[41] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/69/23), chap. III.

[42] See resolution 65/119.

decolonization in May 2009, and encourages continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, to this end requests the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all of the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution IX
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014,[23]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 68/97 of 11 December 2013, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2011,

Regretting that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, have not been successful,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the continued efforts of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of certain administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Noting that the Pacific regional seminar was held in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 65/119, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of

the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[43]

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

6. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

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[43] Resolution 217 A (III).

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

8. *Recalls* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[44] updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance, as needed, to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as

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[44] A/56/61, annex.

appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, President pro tempore of the Special Committee, to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee during the intersessional period, in order to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis;

15. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

16. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions;

17. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2014,[23] including the programme of work envisaged for 2015;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

Annex I

List of documents of the Special Committee in 2014

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2014/1	Western Sahara (working paper)	3 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/2	Tokelau (working paper)	4 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/3	Anguilla (working paper)	4 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/4	Pitcairn (working paper)	6 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/5	Bermuda (working paper)	10 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/6	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	12 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/7	Saint Helena (working paper)	12 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/8	Cayman Islands (working paper)	14 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/9	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	20 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/10	Montserrat (working paper)	21 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/11	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	24 February 2014
A/AC.109/2014/12	Gibraltar (working paper)	4 March 2014
A/AC.109/2014/13	American Samoa (working paper)	6 March 2014
A/AC.109/2014/14	Guam (working paper)	11 March 2014
A/AC.109/2014/15	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	12 March 2014
A/AC.109/2014/16 and Add.1	New Caledonia (working paper)	24 March 2014
A/AC.109/2014/17	Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Pacific Regional Seminar on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action — Guidelines and rules of procedure	24 March 2014
A/AC.109/2014/18	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2013 to March 2014: report of the Secretary-General	26 March 2014
A/AC.109/2014/19	French Polynesia (working paper)	26 March 2014
A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1	Report of the United Nations mission to New Caledonia, 2014	18 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	6 January 2014

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2014/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Chair	6 January 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.3	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	11 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.4	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	11 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.5/Rev.1	Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	11 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.6	Special Committee decision of 17 June 2013 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	18 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.7	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	24 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.8	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.9	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	19 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.10	Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.11	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2014

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2014/L.12	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	26 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.13	Special Committee decision of 17 June 2013 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	20 March 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.14	Report of the Special Committee on decisions concerning organizational matters	19 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.15	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	24 June 2014
A/AC.109/2014/L.16	Question of French Polynesia: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	19 June 2014

Annex II

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action, held in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/119, the General Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex) and to cooperate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third Decade.

2. In its resolution 68/97, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2014, which included the holding of a seminar in the Pacific region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The purpose of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization who could assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that could be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. The discussions at the seminar would assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.

4. The contributions of the participants would serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2014, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the seminar

5. The seminar was held in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May, 2014. It held five meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts, took part (see appendix II). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

6. The seminar was conducted by the Chair of the Special Committee and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations, Xavier Lasso Mendoza, with the participation of representatives of the following States members of the Committee: Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Fiji, Indonesia, Mali, Papua New Guinea,

Russian Federation and Sierra Leone. Three administering powers, France, New Zealand and the United States of America, participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Argentina, Australia, Morocco and Spain. Also represented at the seminar were the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and two regional organizations, the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May, The Chair appointed Esala Nayasi (Fiji) and Alexander Volgarev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, with Jose Antonio Cousiño (Chile) appointed Rapporteur, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the seminar. The Chair also established an informal drafting group and appointed the Rapporteur as its facilitator.

8. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee, the administering Powers, territorial Governments and other concerned Member States and stakeholders in accelerating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
    (a) Building comprehensive and sustained initiatives to achieve effective actions on specific cases;
    (b) Promoting the constructive involvement of all concerned to accelerate the full implementation of the decolonization process;
    (c) Devising fresh and creative approaches for promoting priorities in the decolonization process on a case-by-case basis.
2. Accelerating action: perspectives of the Special Committee, the administering Powers, Territorial Governments and other concerned Member States and stakeholders, as well as the views of experts and civil society:
    (a) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Pacific region;
    (b) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region;
    (c) In Non-Self-Governing Territories of other regions.
3. Role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions: presentations by the United Nations Development Programme and regional commissions.
4. Accelerating action: recommendations on advancing the decolonization process.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

9. On 21 May 2014, the Chair of the Special Committee, Xavier Lasso Mendoza (Ecuador), opened the seminar during a traditional ceremony organized by the host

country, at which the Prime Minister of Fiji delivered a welcoming address. The Chair made some welcoming remarks, acknowledging the annual Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

10. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May, the Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Fiji Multi-Country Office read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix I).

11. At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement highlighting the task ahead for the Special Committee.

B. Statements and discussions[a]

12. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May, the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Mali, the Russian Federation, Cuba and Sierra Leone made statements. Statements were also made by the representatives of Gibraltar, Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario) and by the representative of Morocco. Statements were made by two experts.

13. At the 2nd meeting, on 21 May, statements were made by Kuresa Nasau (Tokelau), Edward Alvarez (Guam), Savali Talavou Ale (American Samoa) and by the representatives of New Zealand and France. The seminar also heard statements from the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cuba and Fiji, and from two experts.

14. At the same meeting, presentations were made by three experts: Mathias Chauchat (New Caledonia), Anne Gras (New Caledonia) and Mikael Forrest (New Caledonia). The seminar heard statements by the representatives of France and Sierra Leone, as well as by the representatives of the Melanesian Spearhead Group and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, in addition to one expert.

15. At the 3rd meeting, on 22 May, the representative of France made a statement and the seminar heard further presentations by two experts: Edward Paul Wolfers (Australia) and Richard Tuheiava (French Polynesia). Statements were made by two other experts.

16. At the same meeting, the seminar heard a presentation by an expert, Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico), a statement by the representative of Cuba and a statement by one other expert.

17. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by Roger Edwards (Falkland Islands (Malvinas)),[b] Joe Bossano (Gibraltar) and Fadel Kamel Mohamed (Frente Polisario). The seminar heard a statement by the representative of Argentina and a presentation by an expert, Alejandro Betts (Argentina). The representative of Morocco also made a statement.

18. At the 4th meeting, on 22 May, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Spain, the Russian Federation, Cuba, Sierra Leone, Ecuador, Chile and Indonesia. The representatives of Morocco and Cuba made statements in exercise of

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[a] All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, http://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization.

[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

the right of reply. Statements were also made by the representative of Frente Polisario, and by one expert.

19. At the same meeting, the seminar heard a presentation from an expert, Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine), a statement by the representative of Morocco and a statement by the representative of Frente Polisario.

20. Also at the same meeting, further statements were made by the representatives of Gibraltar, Chile, Morocco and Ecuador, as well as by Frente Polisario and one expert.

21. At the 5th meeting, on 23 May, the members of the Special Committee present at the seminar held informal consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

C. Closing of the seminar

22. At the 5th meeting, on 23 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

23. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Fiji (see appendix III).

24. Also at the same meeting, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Fiji, Amena Yauvoli, made closing remarks. The Chair of the Special Committee made a statement before declaring the seminar closed.

IV. Outcome

25. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the role of the Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration and make suggestions and recommendations on the progress in, and extent of, the implementation of the Declaration, and report thereon to the General Assembly.

26. Participating members reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of previous seminars.

27. Pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2014/17, annex), participating members of the Special Committee finalized the present report and the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar (see sect. IV below), which will be presented to the Special Committee at its substantive session in June 2014.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

28. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the role of the Special

(g) Welcomed calls for joint projects for the enhancement of public education about the nature of the constitutional relationship in some Territories involving the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(h) Stressed the important role of women in the process of decolonization, including in education, poverty eradication and community empowerment;

(i) Recognized the role of and the need for increased dialogue with civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(j) Recognized the role of civil society, including the business community and non-governmental organizations, in the development process and in facilitating the achievement of economic sustainability and the well-being of the peoples in the Territories;

(k) Underlined the fact that status-related and/or constitutional review exercises in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were delicate processes that should meet certain expectations towards accomplishing their decolonization, on a case-by-case basis and where appropriate, including through informal, working-level communication and dialogue among all concerned;

(l) Reiterated that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/97 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France, New Zealand and the United States of America in the seminar;

(m) Recognized the importance of the active engagement of other States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Special Committee in the work of the Committee, and in that connection welcomed the participation of Argentina, Australia, Morocco and Spain in the seminar.

B. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating actions in the Pacific, including follow-up to the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar

32. As their concluding observations, the participating members:

With regard to the situation in American Samoa:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the representative of the Governor and the information provided;

(b) Took note of the information provided that, while the Territory enjoyed a great deal of self-government, its current legal status was viewed as an anachronism exposing it to situations beyond its control and which needed to be remedied;

(c) Noted the concern expressed over certain United States federal laws that continue to have a debilitating impact on the Territory's ability to achieve sustainable economic growth;

(d) Took note of the constitutional amendment approved by the Fono, the Territory's legislature, in 2014 with regard to the veto override process, and which will be put to the vote at the end of 2014;

(e) Welcomed in that regard the announcement of a voter education process ahead of the constitutional amendment poll at the end of 2014;

(f) Welcomed the announcement of dialogue among the people of American Samoa to engage in serious discussions about the Territory's future political status, which will commence in 2015;

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(g) Took note of the statement made by the representative of the Governor presenting an update on the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization towards decolonization over the past year, namely, the progress made in securing territorial funding for a self-determination education campaign;

(h) Took note also of the request that the Special Committee assist the Commission on Decolonization in its efforts to obtain federal funds for the self-determination education campaign, and resolved to draw the attention of the administering Power to this matter;

(i) Noted with appreciation the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization in reinforcing public awareness and reaching out to public and private high schools as well as civic and cultural organizations in order to explain and clarify misunderstandings concerning decolonization;

(j) Took note of the proposals made to expedite the decolonization process, inter alia, that the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs begin to supply information on the political status options and that a work programme for the decolonization of each Territory be considered by the General Assembly;

(k) Stressed again the need for continued close monitoring of the situation in the Territory, especially in relation to the funding needs of the public education programme on options for self-determination;

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

(l) Noted the concern expressed over the failure by the administering Power to submit information on the Territory pursuant to Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

(m) In this connection, underlined the importance of securing substantive and reliable information about the situation in the Territory as a means of complementing the informational working paper prepared by the Secretariat;

(n) Noted the importance attached to the timely submission of the report of the Secretary-General compiling the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts as a consequence of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in the Territory, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/93;

(o) Noted also the concerns expressed about the access, ownership and rights of the Ma'ohi people in regard to the resources of the exclusive economic zone, and recalled General Assembly resolution 68/97, in which the Assembly urged the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requested the relevant administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(p) Noted the constructive cooperation and engagement of the Government of France with regard to the self-determination process in New Caledonia, in particular for permitting the first visiting mission of the Special Committee;

(q) Welcomed the statement by the representative of the administering Power, who provided information regarding the support provided by the administering Power to the process of decolonization of New Caledonia over the past 25 years, inter alia, in the areas of realignment between various provinces, investment in social housing and training for the people;

(r) Noted the efforts of Roch Wamytan and the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste in proposing the idea of the first visiting mission to the Territory ahead of the 2014 provincial elections;

(s) Noted with satisfaction the upcoming submission of the report of the visiting mission during the annual session of the Special Committee in June 2014;

(t) Noted the concerns expressed over the problems encountered in the provincial elections process with regard to the persistent divergent interpretations of the restricted electorate provisions, the voter registration appeal process and the need to better prepare the upcoming consultations on access to full sovereignty, as provided for by the Nouméa Accord;

(u) Noted the concerns expressed over migration into New Caledonia and drew the attention of the administering Power attention to ensuring that the Kanak indigenous people are not undermined, in accordance with United Nations provisions;

(v) Noted the economic and social rebalancing efforts undertaken by the administering Power and that more efforts are required to ensure the timeliness of the transfer of powers under the Nouméa Accord and for adequate capacity-building of the Kanak indigenous people;

(w) Reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 68/92, in which, inter alia, the Assembly stated that, in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

(x) Reiterated the call to all of the parties involved, in the interest of all of the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

(y) Stressed the need for continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory in the final phase of implementation of the Nouméa Accord;

With regard to the situation in Tokelau:

(z) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau and the positive cooperation with the administering Power;

(aa) Welcomed the statement by the representative of the administering Power, who reiterated its commitment to continue to work very closely with the leadership and people of Tokelau to advance their self-determination, and underlined its important role in the government of Tokelau and the delivery of services to its people, especially regarding the provision of education, health care and shipping needs;

(bb) Noted the substantial degree of autonomy of Tokelau in the management of its own affairs and the view expressed by the Ulu on its resolve that, for the time being, self-determination considerations must take second place to pressing infrastructure and development needs;

(cc) Noted the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau that the self-determination process of the Territory could not be addressed in isolation from the threat of climate change and sea-level rise;

(dd) Encouraged the Territory and the administering Power to continue their close cooperation based on the Joint Commitment for Development plan 2011-2015, which would focus on a viable transportation arrangement, infrastructure development, human resources capacity and the strengthening of governance;

(ee) Noted the desire of Tokelau to be able to gain more support from Member States and the United Nations system to enable it to become part of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the impact of climate change and the protection of the environment and oceans.

C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar

33. As their concluding observations, the participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the expert and civil society representative, who shared views on the process of decolonization in the Caribbean region, in particular on the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(b) Took note of the statement made, in which it was recommended that, in line with the resolutions and decisions concerning Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee since 1972 reaffirming the inalienable right of its people to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico, the Special Committee keep the question under continuous review and make specific recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly.

D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar

34. As their concluding observations, the participating members:

With regard to the situation in Western Sahara:

(a) Recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, and reaffirmed all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 67/129, and supported Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013) and 2152 (2014) and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to finding a solution to the question of Western Sahara in this context. They called on the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and the success of the negotiations. They reiterated the call made at previous regional seminars to the parties to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

With regard to the situation in Falkland Islands (Malvinas):

(b) Recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which encouraged the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and the subsequent relevant resolutions adopted at the United Nations, including General Assembly resolution 31/49, in which the Assembly called upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply the introduction of unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the General Assembly, and requested the Secretary-General to continue his mission of good offices in compliance with General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions on that question;

With regard to the situation in Gibraltar:

(c) Recalled the need to put into practice the appeal made by the United Nations to Spain and the United Kingdom to hold talks on the question of Gibraltar in order to reach, in the spirit of the Brussels Declaration of 27 November 1984 and listening to the interests of the population of Gibraltar, a definitive and negotiated solution of the controversy in the light of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the applicable principles, and in accordance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. They noted that, given that the tripartite Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar has ceased to exist, Spain and the United Kingdom were trying to set up a new mechanism for local cooperation in the interest of social well-being and regional economic development in which the competent Gibraltarian local authorities and the competent Spanish local and regional authorities would participate. They expressed the hope that this mechanism could start work soon.

E. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories

35. As their concluding observations, the participating members:

(a) Encouraged the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including participation in the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

(b) Expressed their support of the role of United Nations regional commissions in enhancing and expanding the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in their activities as associate members, in particular the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Third Decade

36. As their concluding observations, the participating members:

(a) Reaffirmed that all peoples have the right to self-determination and, by virtue of that right, to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) Also reaffirmed that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Reconfirmed that the United Nations had a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization, that the mandate of the Special Committee was a major programme of the Organization, and that United Nations support should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters have been resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(d) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization as well as for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(e) Underlined the importance for the Special Committee to develop a proactive and focused approach, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list. The Special Committee needed to continue to approach each case in a spirit of openness, to build on the available options and to bring about more dynamism in the decolonization process, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(f) In view of the contribution of various regional organizations and regional arrangements to the capacity-building of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, advised that their effective participation in relevant regional organizations and regional arrangements needed to be facilitated, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, along with the strengthening of concrete regional functional cooperation in various areas, such as governance, natural disaster preparedness, climate change and community empowerment;

(g) Also in view of the important role of regional organizations and regional arrangements in providing assistance to the relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories in support of the process of decolonization, suggested that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate and the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, strengthen its interactions and collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations;

(h) On the issue of public outreach to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on decolonization issues, advised the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, actively to engage and seek new and innovative ways to promote a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including to complement their ongoing efforts and ensure that the information provided effectively reaches the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(i) On the issue of education, suggested that the relevant territorial Governments and the administering Powers consider incorporating decolonization issues into the school curriculum of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(j) On the status-related and/or constitutional review exercises and the overall process of decolonization, stressed that such processes should be approached on a case-by-case basis and in a way that is respectful of human rights, transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory, with the involvement of the people concerned, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(k) On the relationship with administering Powers, advised that interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers should continue to be nurtured and strengthened through various possible platforms and means, including informal, working-level dialogue, and reaffirmed that all administering Powers, particularly those which have not done so, needed to engage effectively with the Special Committee;

(l) In this connection, underlined the crucial importance of enhancing communication and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers, and urged the Special Committee to explore and seek possible concerted interaction in that regard, in formal and informal settings, with a view to make progress in decolonization during the Third Decade, on a case-by-case basis;

(m) In addition, underlined the crucial importance of enhancing relations between the Special Committee, other concerned Member States and stakeholders as well as experts and civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(n) In view of the valuable contribution of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminar, reiterated that the Special Committee, through the proper mechanism and with the assistance of the Secretariat, should continue to work towards full participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in future seminars. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(o) Underlined the importance of enhancing relations between the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in sharing information about their territories, and in this regard took note of the proposal made by a representative of a Non-Self-Governing Territory on the creation of a network among the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(p) In this connection, the Special Committee should continue to retool its methods of work and hone its capacity to conduct the seminars in an innovative manner to ensure a higher degree of United Nations-funded participation of its members in the regional seminars in order to allow the Committee to better hear the views of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

(q) On the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, stressed that the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies needed to engage with the work of the Special Committee and strengthen their efforts, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanism, in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories; in that regard, the Special Committee needed to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies;

(r) Advised the Special Committee that it needed to develop ways and means through which it could make a better assessment, on a case-by-case basis, of the current stage of decolonization and self-determination in each Non-Self-Governing Territory in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, which could serve as a checklist of the progress achieved and things to be done and, in that connection, invited the Special Committee to continue to develop a specific project proposal, such as the holding of an informal, working-level dialogue with the administering Powers and other concerned Member States and stakeholders;

(s) Reiterated that the Special Committee needed to continue working towards sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the involvement of the relevant territorial Government and administering Power, on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and, in that regard, noted the interest expressed at the seminar by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in such visiting and special missions;

(t) Reaffirmed that the process of decolonization was incomplete until all the outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters were resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(u) Within the context of calls for a Third Decade, the Special Committee should continue to take stock of current challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process and draw up a pragmatic plan of action for the Third Decade with a view to accelerating the decolonization process.

Appendix I

Message of the Secretary-General to the Pacific regional seminar on implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action

I am pleased to send greetings to all participants at this regional seminar convened under the auspices of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization. I thank the Government and people of Fiji for hosting the event.

You meet as we near the mid-point of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The Special Committee has undertaken important work in recent months, including through the visiting mission to New Caledonia in March 2014 with the full cooperation of the administering Power, France.

Other initiatives include the consultations of the Bureau with each of the four administering Powers — France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America — and with various other stakeholders. The Special Committee has also improved its methods of work by expanding its Bureau to include one member from the region of Asia and the Pacific.

I welcome these innovative measures, which make the Special Committee more visible and, more importantly, more active. Our aim is to give greater priority to the decolonization agenda and to spur accelerated action.

I trust that political will, applied on a case-by-case basis, can evolve on all sides to make progress on the decolonization of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories still under the purview of the Special Committee. Good intentions will have to be translated into credible action to make the Third International Decade a success.

The current regional seminar on decolonization is a notable effort to facilitate interaction and problem-solving while generating new ideas on the way forward.

I wish you great success.

Appendix II

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Ecuador (Chair)	Xavier Lasso Mendoza[a] José Eduardo Proaño[a]
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño[a]
China	Cao Xinyang
Cuba	Oscar León González[a]
Fiji	Esala Nayasi
Indonesia	Gary RM Jusuf Elleonora Tambunan[a] Ira Rachmawati
Mali	Dianguina dit Yaya Doucouré[a]
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa[a]
Russian Federation	Alexander A. Volgarev[a]
Sierra Leone	Amadu Koroma[a]

States Members of the United Nations

Argentina	Gerardo Díaz Bartolome Martin Dieser
Australia	Solstice Middleby
Morocco	Mohamed Mael-Ainin Khaddad El Moussaoui
Spain	Javier Gutiérrez Blanco-Navarrete

Administering Powers

France	Gilles Montagnier Caroline Gravelat Marie-Paule Tourte-Trolue
New Zealand	Nicola Ngawati
United States	Vukidonu Qionibaravi

United Nations funds and programmes

United Nations Development Programme	Akiko Fujii

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[a] Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Savali Talavou Ale Fiu Johnny Saelua
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[b]	Roger Edwards
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano
Guam	Edward A. Alvarez
Tokelau	Kuresa Nasau Jovilisi V. Suveinakama
Western Sahara	Fadel Kamel Mohamed

Non-governmental organizations

Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico)	Wilma E. Reveron-Collazo

Regional Groups

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	Alfred (Alifeleti) Soakai Angela Thomas
Melanesian Spearhead Group	Jimmy Naouna

Experts

Alejandro Betts

Mathias Maurice Marcel Chauchat

Sergei Cherniavsky

Mickael Forrest

Anne Nicole Marie Perrier Gras

Richard Ariihau Tuheiava

Edward Paul Wolfers

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[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Fiji

The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,

Having met in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014 to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard an important statement by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Rear Admiral Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama,

Taking note of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Fiji for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to its success and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Fiji.

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